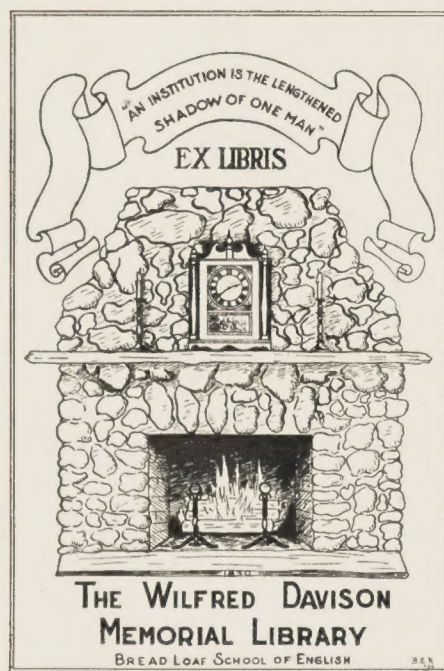


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Bread Loaf Writers' Conference  
The Crumb - 1935







## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 15, 1935.

No. 1

This year The Crumb welcomes you to Bread Loaf with especial pride, because the Conference is celebrating its Tenth Anniversary. We hope you will enjoy your stay here, and on behalf of the Staff and those in charge of the Inn, we beg to inform you that the general tone of the Conference is very informal. We are all here to make friends, talk shop and to get a lot done in a short time.

The Crumb is the official publication here at Bread Loaf. It will bring you notices concerning the activities planned, and also some of the ideas that are being discussed. It is your magazine -- a kind of permanent record of the spirit of the Conference. For this reason we suggest you keep your copies -- at least until the final day.

#### Procedure for Thursday

1. Register with Mr. Morrison in the Director's office as soon after arrival as possible. Please leave with him all mss. you wish submitted to staff members for criticism. Office hours: 11.30 to 12.30 and 2 to 6.

2. Register with Mrs. Powell in the West Parlor and pay your fees to her.

3. The parlor of the Fritz Cottage is being reserved as a gathering place for all members of the Conference, as well as a library of material of special interest to writers. Beginning on Friday afternoon Miss Vickery will serve tea at a very moderate price. Hours: 3.30 to 5. and 8.45 to 9.45.



August 15, 1935.

4. After supper tonight the Inn will serve coffee in the West Parlor. This will constitute the first assembly of the Conference. The regular program of lectures and round tables will begin on Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is a great pleasure to state that at 7.45 P.M. we will hold a reception in the Assembly Hall for Mr. Robert Frost. Former Bread Loafers do not need to be told that this is a treat.

What's Where

The Assembly Hall is directly behind the Inn and may be reached by the piazza or the West Parlor. The Wilfred Davison Memorial Library lies just beyond the Assembly Hall.

Cherry, Birch and Maple, respectively, are the names of the three cottages housing members of the Conference. They are on the left of the road beyond the Inn.

Treman House, where a majority of the masculine members of the Staff are quartered, is in the meadow across from Cherry. The road in this direction leads to the Long Trail.

The Fritz Cottage, which contains our Conference club-room, is the second on the left below and across from the Inn on the Middlebury road.

This is Vermont

"A Time to Talk"

By Robert Frost

"When a friend calls to me from the road,  
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,  
I don't stand still and look around  
On all the hills I haven't hoed,  
And shout from where I am, 'What is it?'  
No, not as there is time to talk.  
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,  
Blade-end up and five feet tall,  
And plod; I go up to the stone wall  
For a friendly visit."



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 16, 1935.

No. 2.

Today the official round begins. A complete schedule of the morning and afternoon engagements has been posted on the bulletin board outside the Conference office. Copies of this may be had by applying to Mr. Harris in the office.

Occasional additions and changes will be announced in The Crumb.

May we caution you that the first lecture is at 8.30 A.M. Probably at first you will wish to sample all the various subjects, and then specialize on the types that interest you. If you have any questions, the speakers will welcome interruptions that lead to heightened discussion.

Remember that you will get the most out of Bread Loaf by taking an active part.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Morrison will discuss "Bread Loaf."
- 9.30 A.M. Mr. DeVoto's subject: "Implications of the Short Story Form."
- 10.30 A.M. Mr. Munson has chosen "The Essayist at His Desk."
- 11.30 A.M. Mrs. Peterkin will consider the question "Why Write?"

#### General Round Table

2.30 P.M. Mr. Morrison is taking charge of the Panel. He will be supported by numerous members of the Staff. He will be glad to have members of the Conference challenge him to an argument on any subject. The stiffer the mental opposition in these meetings, the more we all benefit.

#### Lecture Tonight

7.30 P.M. Mr. Gorham Munson will speak on a subject to be announced. Past attendants at the Conference know that this will prove a scholarly and stimulating talk.

#### Bread Loaf Neighbor

Mr. William Hazlitt Upson, creator of the Earthworm Tractor stories in the SatEvePost, lives only a short distance down our road. Last summer Mr. Eaton suggested he ought to name his residence "Upson Downs." Mr. Upson disagreed emphatically.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2-5  
The Library hours are 3 to 6 P.M., including Sundays. You will find Mr. Wyman Parker in charge again this year.

The Book Store, next door to the Conference Office, will be open from 1.45 to 2.15 P.M. and also after supper, 7. to 7.30 P.M.  
2-2130

7:30-8  
Mail hours: Incoming mail will be ready for distribution about 10.15 A.M. and 3.3.0 P.M. N. B. When the glass windows are closed the Inn staff will consider patience a very marked virtue. Outgoing mail must be in the box at the Inn desk not later than 8.45 A.M. and 2.30 P.M.

Laundry: for various types of personal service please consult the Inn office. Information about walks and trails will also be gladly given there.

The tennis courts, croquet field, etc. are available for members of the Conference, as well as guests of the Inn. In this particular we shall miss Mr. Walter Prichard Eaton, former Staff member and one of the greatest living authorities on croquet procedure and tactics.

Auctions

From time to time you will find notices of auctions on one or another of the Inn bulletin boards. Some of them come on Saturdays, when our schedule is reduced. For those who have not experienced a New England auction, we can offer assurance that it holds a high degree of color and excitement.

Mrs. Gladys Hasty Carroll no doubt can give Crumb readers further expert advice on the matter.

Bread Loafiana

A year ago Miss Fanny Butcher of the Chicago Tribune and a member of our Staff reported her experiences here. She quoted the rather remarkable tribute of a student member of the Conference concerning Mrs. Peterkin. "Every quality Aimee Semple MacPherson has spent years acquiring in the business of winning souls," said Miss Butcher's confident, "Mrs. Julia Peterkin has by the grace of God and her wide, generous smile."

Bulletin Board

Just outside the Conference office you will find official notices posted, and also a number of letters, posters, news releases, etc. of interest to writers.



August 16, 1935

Dining Room Note

The Inn management regrets that it is necessary to seat members of the Conference at separate tables from the guests of the Inn. The inconvenience of this arrangement is appreciated, but unfortunately it is a policy which because of the exigencies of the situation, cannot be changed since it has been formulated by the trustees of the institution.

And Mrs. Powell

Mrs. Powell will be at the Inn directly after lunch on Saturday to confer with members of the Conference who have not paid their fees. She announces that failure to settle accounts at this time will result in a special assessment of two dollars.

Mss. Are Valuable

Phyllis Bottomme, the novelist, spent four months working on her new book, then she took train for a vacation in the Austrian Tyrol and -- lost the trunk containing the manuscript?

A handsome reward and weeks of frantic search have so far failed to guarantee the novelist against the possible irritation of having to do her work all over again.

The moral of this probably is: hunt lions in Africa, jump off a cliff or set your typewriter up in a safe deposit vault, but never take chances with your manuscript.

Many writers do take chances. To save a few cents in postage, or a few minutes in retyping soiled pages, they risk loss or even a rejection. Bank clerks who handle large sums of money have a saying: "The public be pleased, yes; but always protect yourself first."

Wanted: New Authors

The firm of Claude Kendall and Willoughby Sharp, of which William Griffith has recently been appointed literary adviser, is asking new authors to make themselves known. Mr. Griffith, a cousin of Mark Twain, formerly edited the Author's digest, and is a past president of the Poetry Society of America.

Better ask Mr. Everitt about this.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 17, 1935.

No. 3.

Today we approach our first week-end. Sincere there are no round tables this afternoon everyone is free to make plans according to individual tastes. Some will wish to play, to relax or just talk. And Bread Loaf being Bread Loaf, some will want to take a busman's holiday and -- write!

#### Sightseeing, etc.

The first expeditions into neighboring country which you will no doubt wish to make will probably concern Silent Cliff, Lake Pleiad and Lake Dunmore. The Cliff and Lake Pleiad are to the left and right respectively (both short walks) on the Long Trail, which crosses our road in the pass three miles east of the Inn. Lake Dunmore lies about twelve miles west and south of us and is reached by the road winding down to Ripton Gorge and Middlebury.

The Lake Champlain district is also within easy driving distance. For more complete directions consult the Inn office.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Brown will speak on "Some Essentials of Play writing." Modestly he stresses the "some."
- 9.30 A.M. "The Character of Artists" is Mr. Ransome's subject. He has threatened to let fall a few bombshells.
- 10.30 A.M. Mrs. Carroll intends to speak on, and expose, some "Tricks of Writing Method."
- 11.30 A.M. Mr. Stevens will close the morning with a talk on "Book Reviewing."

#### Evening Lecture

- 7.45 P.M. Mr. DeVoto has picked the provocative subject "Fiction As a Disease."

#### Hint For Neophytes

We are fairly certain you wish to attend as many lectures as possible, and we know the waiters have business in the kitchen after you have eaten. At Bread Loaf accordingly, the prompt shall reap their reward on earth. If you want to know what this is, ask any of the eight-thirty lecturers.

It would also be well if you would take seats near the desk. It is difficult to speak to a scattered audience.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Auditors:** Guests of the Inn are welcome to attend the morning and afternoon lectures of the Conference on payment of auditors' fees at the Director's office.

The rates for auditors are \$1. an hour, \$3. a day and \$15. a week.

Evening lectures are open to everyone at Bread Loaf without charge.

The Conference Clubroom in the Fritz Cottage is open to regular members of the Conference and to auditors enrolled at the weekly rate.

Scrapbook

In the Wilfred Devison Memorial Library behind the Assembly Hall, you will find on one of the tables a largish scrapbook, easily identifiable by the two dogs scrapping playfully (not a very good pun).

Therein your reporter has compiled sundry clips -- articles of information, Bread Loafiana and general interest. This scrapbook, the property of the Library, is intended to be a kind of supplement (not required reading!) to the Crumb.

From time to time, if the spirit moves us, we will call attention to some of the articles. So consult the scrapbook freely, or not, as you will. It will be available whenever the Library is open.

Two interviews with Mr. DeVoto will perhaps serve to start the ball rolling. In one of them a Boston artist describes our short story authority as "the pugilistic historian." In headlines, too!

New Book

On August 12th the Thomas Y. Crowell Company published Mr. Morrison's second volume of poetry with a foreword by Hervey Allen, another Bread Loafer. Mr. Allen, with Edwin Arlington Robinson in mind, declares that Mr. Morrison is a continuator of the vein of reflective poetry that has distinguished New England poets at their best.

A small consignment of "Notes of Death and Life" has been received by the book store and is offered for sale at \$2. a volume.

Bread Loaf Spirit

Bread Loaf is singularly free of regimentation. Its peculiar charm and lasting values were amply illustrated during Mr. Frost's visit. Those who sat in the sun that morning listening to him talk of life and writing and many things, realize how pleasantly profitable are some of the most casual conversations. Bread Loaf is like that.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 18, 1935.

No. 4.

Several persons have expressed surprise or bewilderment over the Director's suggestion on Friday morning that members of the Conference would do well to take no notes, or at most but few, and those to be written up after the various lectures.

Yesterday was perhaps a perfect illustration of what the Director had in mind. Mr. Brown, Mr. Ransome, Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Carroll all proved that Bread Loaf is first and foremost a gathering-place of stirring personalities. While we are here we should strive to recharge ourselves from the fountains of vitality and imagination which our speakers so generously release. And for each of us there is a satisfactory, if individual method.

#### Dinner at Six

The Inn management begs to state that dinner is served only between the hours of 6 and 7 P.M. No one will be allowed to starve, but those trailing in late will know now that blushes are in order, even on the most calloused cheeks.

#### Literary Snobbery

Perhaps the most important single idea that came out of the Conference last year was contributed by Mr. Farrar.

He made it clear -- and Bread Loaf staffs are always unanimous on this point -- that every writer has the choice of writing the kind of thing he can do best, or struggling to do the thing that is beyond him, and which he may never attain, either in talent or technical skill.

"But whatever the final decision," declared Mr. Farrar, "no writer needs to lower his literary standards. That form of literary snobbery," he added, "has no place in any writer's equipment."

#### Living vs. Existing

"The loss of the romantic spirit is a great national disaster, because integrity vanishes with it, and expediency becomes the rule of conduct.

"And expediency, opportunism, grasping at the main chance, defeat even their own purposes. The next man has his dodges, too."

Isabel M. Patterson



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 19, 1935.

No. 5.

This morning we get down to the real work of the Conference. Mrs. Peterkin leads off a busy round of talks, while very soon members will begin to hear from the Staff regarding their manuscripts.

The procedure is as follows: Either personally or in your mail-box you will receive notice of an appointment at a definite hour. From then on the full burden is upon your shoulders. If for any reason the meeting is inconvenient or impractical, you should request an alternative time as soon as possible. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that all appointments should be kept promptly and exactly, since many of the Staff are carrying a heavy reading burden.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mrs. Peterkin is speaking on "The Rise of Realism."  
9.30 A.M. "The One Indispensable of Fiction" is Mr. DeVoto's topic.  
10.30 A.M. Mr. Munson has chosen "Tone, Rhythm and Vocabulary in Essay Writing."  
11.30 A.M. And Mr. Everitt, evidently profoundly influenced by Thomas Wolfe, is talking in on "The Birth and Death of a Manuscript (a Statistical Analysis of Literary Mortality), or Why I like to leave the office as early as possible."

#### Afternoon Round Tables

2.30 P.M. The Conference will divide into small groups today for purposes of round table discussion. Members may choose whatever group they wish to attend, but it is naturally expected that those primarily interested in the novel will attend the round table on the novel, and those interested in verse, will attend the verse round table, etc.

One or more members of the Staff will conduct each of the separate meetings. The round tables will be held in the various rooms of the lecture hall as follows:

Short Story: Main hall. Mrs. Everitt and Mr. DeVoto.  
Verse: Room #1 (Southwest Corner) Mr. Ransom and Mr. Morrison.

Drama: Room #2 (Southeast Corner) Mr. Brown.

Novel: Room #3 (Northwest Corner) Mrs. Peterkin, Mrs. Carroll and Mr. Stevens.

Essays, articles: Room #4 (Northwest Corner) Mr. Munson.



ANNOUNCEMENTS.

There will be an exhibition and sale of books by members of the Staff and by the Fellows in the West Parlor of the Inn from 2 to 4 P.M. this afternoon. Simultaneously there will be a display of the Library Collection at the Library during the usual hours of 3 to 6 P.M.

Miss Vickery is changing her hours at the Conference Club-room in the afternoons to the period between 4 and 5.30 P.M. She will doubtless appreciate it if members of the Conference and their friends do not keep her on duty too late after the evening lectures.

Special Recital

In place of the usual evening lecture Mr. Ransom will read from his own poems and comment thereon. The will be 7.45 P.M. and the place the lecture hall.

Synthetic Novel

In the light of the discussions as to the motives which cause writers to set down their thoughts on paper, it may not be inappropriate to note that an English publisher once commissioned an author to write a bestseller, taking for his model the works of Ethel M. Dell.

Is it necessary to add that the resulting novel was a dire failure? Or to repeat the conclusion drawn by Harold Nicholson: "that while there are certain authors with an unusual faculty for supplying what the public wants, there exists no synthetic formula for gauging the public taste."

To write interestingly and freshly about the things with which they are familiar -- that is the best recipe any writer may have. It is the special problem of the author, whatever his type of writing, to make those things important in the mind of the lay reader.

Bread Loafiana

John Howard Lawson, the playwright paid a pretty tribute to our Mr. Brown two months ago. In a letter to the New York Times he commented that on the evening of Tuesday, May 28th, there were only two plays opening. One was "Knock On Wood," a noisy farce about the Hollywood agency racket; the other, "The Young Go First," the first long play presented on a professional basis by the Left Wing organization known as the Theater of Action.

"All but two of the first-line dramatic critics," remarked Mr. Lawson, "attended 'Knock On Wood.'" Our Mr. Brown was one of the two!



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 20, 1935.

No. 6.

In her lecture yesterday morning Mrs. Peterkin stated that "Realism does not preclude the presentation of beautiful living." And during a porch conversation Mr. DeVoto remarked that he was old fashioned enough to believe that a writer's strength of character was equally as important as his special skill.

That should be one of the lasting benefits we all ought to reap from our association here at Bread Loaf: the knowledge that as we develop ourselves spiritually, our ability to say things in print will enlarge also. Mr. Charles H. Woodbury, marine artist, once said that after forty years of painting he found the ability to paint a little bit better than his neighbor did not matter nearly so much as what he had to say.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Ransom's subject is "A Practice Sheet in Poetry."  
9.30 A.M. "From Manuscript to Book" is Mr. Stevens' title today.  
10.30 A.M. Mr. Brown continuing his use of the modest "some," will speak on "Some Elements of Characterization."  
11.30 A.M. And Mrs. Carroll is taking up "Juveniles."

#### Evening Lecture

- 7.45 P.M. Mr. Stevens will talk on "The materials of Fiction."

#### Round Tables

The round tables are meeting in divided groups again today in the same places as yesterday.

#### Magazines

In the Conference Clubroom you may now find on file the following magazines: American Literature; American Sketch; Horn Book; Poetry; School and Society; Variety; Vogue and Yachting. Others are expected shortly.

The Horn Book has a Bread Loaf interest since there is a brief review of Mrs. Carroll's "A Few Foolish Ones" by the editor of the Crumb.

Several new Houghton Mifflin Company titles are also available, and will be given to the Library at the end of the Conference.



Dawn At Bread Loaf

Comes dawn -- and yet it is no birdlike peep  
That drags me, sighing, from beloved sleep.

Before my drooping eyes, the hills assume  
That mantle that dispels the midnight gloom

And, in a silent glory, grow e'er brighter  
Silent, that is, except for that typewriter

That ever on the job, fulfills its duty  
Of galvanizing fleeting wit and beauty,

That we may know tomorrow, what, today,  
These sages loose upon us - or it may

Take to the air and leave us quite at sea  
As to DeVoto's line betwixt A and B.

The one, the artist, wholesome, sane, - the other  
Sad mental case, - tho like as a twin brother.

And as to that burning question, always first,  
"Of Time and the River", is it best or worst?

And, - hardly to be breathed, should the toilers  
in belle lettres be ever mentioned with pot-boilers?

These thwacks that pound the air have that great mission  
to refrigerate each phrase and definition.

But may I ask what ribbon could set down  
The flaming sunburn of John Mason Brown?

Or what do credit, at the end of day  
To these captivating critics of croquet?

Constant Reader of the Crumb.

Photograph Exchange

The first group of photographs is now posted on the bulletin board outside the Conference office. Here is your opportunity to get good pictures of the Staff, the buildings, lecturers, etc.

There will be a new set posted on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. So kindly sign for those you wish as promptly as possible. You will receive notice of delivery when ready.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 20, 1935

No. 7.

#### Today's Sermon

"Aim high!" Every writer at least once in his life has listened to that advice. Most authors do aim high -- at the "big pay" magazines. But how many choose the bull's eye in preference to the outer circle as regards the daily grind of their work?

Do they always start off Monday morning with the hardest yarn on the week's schedule? Do they always write their "big" story first -- while they are still fresh? Or do they warm up on the easy ones, of whose acceptance they feel fairly certain? Finally, do they always attempt one outstanding piece of work every week, fifty weeks in the year?

The writer who can answer all these questions in the affirmative is probably kidding himself. No one is that perfect. But remember that Mr. DeVoto says that besides having a flare for writing every author or prospective author must expect to "take it" for years before he gains even a modest success.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Munson is speaking on "How to Write the Article."  
9.30 A.M. Mrs. Peterkin's subject: "What is a Novel?"  
(Note: We know the answer, but we wish to prove that newspapermen can be trusted with a confidence.)  
10.30 A.M. Mr. DeVoto has chosen the cryptic title of "Structure."  
11.30 A.M. Mrs. Everitt switching hours with her husband, is lecturing on "Pot-boilers."

#### Round Tables

- 2.30 P.M. The Conference will meet in the large hall as a group. Subject and leader to be announced.

#### Evening Lecture

The speaker and subject will be announced at luncheon by the Director.

#### Hairdresser

The Inn management has secured a hairdresser, who will be at the Inn on Thursday. Appointments should be made today.



Camping Trip

This coming week-end an extra special opportunity is offered to members of the Conference in the form of an overnight camping trip to the lodge atop Mt. Bread Loaf.

Mr. Taylor has kindly consented to lead such an expedition, if the project arouses sufficient interest. Any members of the Conference or guests of the Inn who would care to go, are invited to notify Mr. Harris by Thursday noon. (NOTE: a sign-up sheet has been posted on the Conference bulletin board in the rear hall.)

This will not be a strenuous trip. It will involve about five miles of hiking each way, and some climbing. We CANNOT use Inn blankets, but have available a limited supply of indestructibles, and some members of our group may have automobile robes they will wish to volunteer. (Pine needles and possibly a little Vermont soil are a small recompense to have to pay for a great deal of fun.)

Indignant Mr. Brown

Our Mr. Brown took our Conference library to task in no uncertain terms yesterday morning. As if to pile coals of fire upon his flaming head, the editor of the Crumb begs to state that even while Mr. Brown was lecturing that tireless soul, Mr. Parker, was side-tracking toll calls in his eagerness to commandeer nine (9) books on the Drama from the Middlebury College library!

Are blushes now in order?

For the Ladies

Your reporter has been informed that the basement of the picturesquely named "Oi Polloi" building, residence of the waitresses and hotel staff, is available for ironing and other house-wifely arts. Consult the Inn desk.

Welcome Guest

It is always a pleasure to welcome to Bread Loaf our Mrs. Allene Corliss, serial writer and former member of the Conference. She had a new book published this spring by Farrar and Rinehart, and she is eminently fitted to help us all with practical information about writing for the large circulation women's magazines. Ply her with your questions!

Audiences

There are three kinds of audiences: thinkers, who demand characterization; women, who demand passion; and the mob who demand action. -- Victor Hugo.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 22, 1935

No. 8.

#### Intellectual Anemia

"The tragedy of refusal is well seen in our reading habits. Most Americans are literate and most of them read a great many words each week. But for the most part they deliberately choose the poor and the trivial. It is very discouraging to note the reading matter of one's fellow passengers on a trans-continental train...

"Often it is not a matter of expense, since a few poorly written magazines cost as much as popular editions of the classics. It is neither a matter of time nor of expense, but of deliberate refusal of the great and interesting in favor of the trivial and dull. The reasons for this refusal take us far and constitute a challenge to our whole educational system." D. Elton Trueblood - Harvard Summer News.

Writers who would get themselves a personality, will do well to consider this thought carefully. Too much indiscriminate reading can make for a foggy mind. Glance over any newspaper and observe the number of important personages, who reflect this condition or its complement, which is the expression of ideas only half thought through.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mrs. Carroll's subject. "The Starting Point of a Novel."
- 9.30 A.M. Mr. Brown will speak on "Some Essentials of Dialogue."
- 10.30 A.M. "Relativity in Poetry" is Mr. Ranson's title.
- 11.30 A.M. Mr. Everitt has chosen "Some People Write."

#### Round Tables

2.30 P.M. The round tables will be divided today.

#### Evening Lecture

Subject and speaker to be announced by the Director.

#### Book Exhibits

There will be another exhibit and sale of books by the Staff and Fellows in the West Parlor from 11 to 1 P.M. And Mr. Parker announces a sale of German novelty books, very inexpensive, right after dinner this evening.



Good Advice

Isabel Wilder, one of the Conference Fellows, was yarning a day or two ago about the time when she was an author's agent at twenty-three. She described how she got rid of impetuous writers, who wanted to "explain" the subtleties of their manuscripts. She said. "I used to tell them that I hadn't time to hear the whole story, and neither did a publisher have time to listen to me tell it, or a bookseller to hear the publisher and a reader to hear the bookseller. 'So put it all in your manuscript,' I used to explain. 'And now that I myself write, I still think -- in fact I know, -- it was good advice!'"

Round Tables

The meetings of the various groups will be more profitable to everyone if each of you will formulate at least one good question, or one strong problem that you wish cleared up.

The seeds of an active discussion never grew on hope alone.

Squawks Department

This reminds us that in her lecture this morning Mrs. Peterkin very generously suggested that each member of the novel group write out on a plain sheet of paper the reason he or she came to Bread Loaf, in other words what they want to get, or are not getting here.

According to Mrs. Peterkin's plan this note is to be handed into her mail-box without any signature. The writers will thus be able to speak frankly, and Mrs. Peterkin, after sorting the notes, will have material to help her help you to a greater degree.

More Good Advice

Following Mr. Gilbert Seldes' stimulating talk yesterday afternoon, it is perhaps appropriate to quote Bela Lugosi, star of the horror film, "The Raven." He said recently. "You cannot make people believe in you if you play a horror part with your tongue in your cheek...The screen (the printed word, too) magnifies everything...No matter how filled with hokum or melodrama the horror part (and others), you must believe in it while you are playing (or writing) it."

Of course the tongue-in-cheek technique has a very definite place in certain forms of comic writing. But so conviction in one's idea is essential.

Skeptics please consult our Mr. Brown.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 23, 1935.

No. 9.

### Old Fashioned

The recent death of W. B. Yeats (Ireland's benign George William Russell) recalls something he wrote in a memorable foreword to the "Collected Poems" of Katharine Tynan.

"What is common to her lyrics," he wrote, "is a shapeliness of architecture. I think of that shapeliness of a song with the same pleasure I have when I look on a picture where everything in it, color, form, tone, are harmonized and fit delicately into four walls.

"That artistic shapeliness is in danger of becoming a lost art to a generation which grew tired of the courtly dress of poetry and listened to so much free verse that it almost forgot what melody was.

"It may appear old fashioned, this adherence to metrical tradition, but I confess I like those who bring their gold, frankincense and myrrh, and put fine raiment on the children of their spirit."

Prose writers also may find inspiration in this idea. There are those who believe the world is hungry for poets -- and leaders -- endowed with the romantic spirit.

### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. DeVoto will discuss the question of "The Utilization of Material."  
9.30 A.M. Mr. Munson's subject: "The Informal Essay."  
10.30 A.M. Mrs. Peterkin will take up the many answers she received to her question "What did You Come to Bread Loaf for?"  
11.30 A.M. And Mr. Stevens has chosen "The Career of the Novelist, or Can You Afford it?"

### Official Audit

It may interest the members of the Conference to know that our four fellows were chosen this year from 45 candidates nominated by 26 publishing houses. Last year the figures were 37 and 22 respectively.

### Evening Recital

7.45 P.M. It is a privilege to announce a poetry reading by the Conference Director, Mr. Theodore Morrison.



Bread Loafiana

Two poems by Shirley Barker, one of our Fellows, have appeared in recent magazines. "Poets Progress" was in the American Poetry Journal for June, while "Ballad of Mother Anne" was printed in the Yankee Poetry Chapbook for Spring.

Overnight Trip

Mr. Taylor is giving those wishing to climb Mt. Bread Loaf a final chance to sign up. Please do so immediately.

Announcements

Please do not play on the tennis courts except in low-heeled shoes. Preferably sneakers.

A new series in the photograph exchange is being posted. Again please sign up quickly. If more interest is not shown this feature will be discontinued.

Writers' Goal

"Chartless"

"I never saw a moor,  
I never saw the sea;  
Yet now I know how the heather looks,  
And what a wave must be --

I never spoke with God,  
Nor visited in Heaven;  
Yet certain am I of the spot  
As if the chart were given."

Emily Dickinson

A Novelist Speaks

The late Anne Douglas Sedgwick once set down her principles as a novelist. "My books," she wrote, "always start with a person -- imaginary always. Yet often to be traced in past memories. I usually see their faces very clearly, and then a scene -- a room where they are. The background rises to fit and explain them and the situation to express them.

"I never begin with a biographical sketch. I have the whole story in mind before I begin -- what it is to mean and how it is to end. I usually start with the first chapter and write straight through, going back in loops as it were, to rewrite, and forward to grasp essential scenes that often rise up dominatingly and can't wait until their times comes. The key scenes are thus usually written before the book really ends, and give me points to work to. I write and rewrite three or four times, and of course the book is often greatly altered before I am satisfied that I have done all that I can do."



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 24, 1935.

No. 10.

#### Old Erasers

When erasers get worn down and crumby, they can still be used on carbons. In fact, using separate erasers keeps both carbon and original cleaner.

Of course newspaper reporters, and others, are supposed to look down on the use of erasers at all. But watching an occasional newsman rub out a badly chosen adjective, at the same time glancing guiltily up and down the City Room, we have often wondered if that isn't what leads eventually to Style. Mmm-ing out is too easy; through the years one grows professionally facile, yes, but perhaps a bit careless also.

Some writers have a natural talent for rhythm, while others are tone deaf. Yet great writing is often painstaking writing, writing that is meant to be heard, writing born of that ceaseless watch for the awkward or merely unsatisfying phrase -- a kind of permanent guard-duty which gradually becomes so instinctive it no longer gets in the way of creative fervor.

Ivan Simpson, a character actor for many years in George Arliss' stage and screen plays, once said actors in self-protection ought never to let their voices get away from lines for long at a time. "If I go even for a week without reading," said Mr. Simpson, "I begin to notice it."

It is the same with writers.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Ranson's subject will be. "Do Poets Communicate?"
- 9.30 A.M. Mrs. Carroll, exchanging hours with Mrs. Everitt, will speak on "New England Writers as I See them."
- 10.30 A.M. Sticking to his favorite form of title, Mr. Brown will speak about "Some Manifestations of Comedy."
- 11.30 A.M. Mrs. Everitt will continue her previous subject: "More or Less Pot-boilers."

#### Conference Club-room

The Club-room will be closed, for refreshments, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Those who wish to read the magazines, may do so freely.

Extra-Curricular Talk

"Gorham Munson will talk at 3 P.M. in the main lecture hall on 'The New Economics of C.H. Douglas.' He will outline Social Credit, the economic system in which British writers like J.B. Priestley, Herbert Read and Compton Mackenzie and American artists like Walter Hampden and Gilbert Seldes have shown a strong interest.

"This talk is gratis and public; all are invited. Mr. Munson is editor of New Democracy, a fortnightly magazine devoted to Economic Democracy (implemented by Social Credit), and the arts, traditionally the custodian of liberty."

The editor of the Crumb gladly announces this special added feature in the lecturer's own words.

Sunday Hike

Mr. Taylor requests those who have signed up for the hike to Silent Cliff to supply additional information as to whether they have a car and how many passengers they can carry. This will mean we can start the climb at the Long Trail.

In order to make plans for the lunches the dead-line for signing up is 2 P.M. today.

We have observed Mrs. Eleanor L. Van Alen, a member of the Conference, had a review of Thornton Wilder's "Heaven's My Destination" in the June issue of the North American Review. In this same publication there is a review of "Time and the River" and a short story by the highly controversial Mr. Wolfe.

Extra Special

Tonight, when the bell rings, we will be hosts to our friends from Ripton, who will show us how to dance some of the old and unfamiliar Vermont folk dances.

Let everyone be there!

Library Accessions

Miss Isabel Wilder has given the Library copies of her two novels, "Heart Be Still" and "Mother and Fear".

The editor of the Crumb is also turning over to Mr. Parker a copy of "Narrative Technique" by Thomas H. Uzzell (not the latest edition, and a sample copy of Transition, the Anglo-French magazine devoted to modernism which is published in Paris. Its editor, Eugene Jolas quaintly terms it "an inter-continental Workshop for Vertigrist Transmutation". If you know what that means, please let the rest of us know.



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 25, 1935.

No. 11.

#### Taken For a Ride

Isabel M. Patterson not long ago took Louis Adamic severely to task for repeating the literary catchword about the sterility of America from an intellectual and artistic point of view.

"whatever may be wrong with our literary output," remarked I.M.P. incisively, "it's not the fault of America. All that any society can give a writer is the freedom of the press. (And where else than in America are writers so free today? Ed. note)

"Of course it's pretty tough to be given full leave to say what you please and then find either that you have nothing to say, or that you don't know how to say it.

"We feel much more sympathy with the state of mind of Tom Wolfe or Louis Paul, who are struck all of a heap by the richness of American life and the liberty of approach, so that they hardly know where to begin.

"The catch in all opportunity, power or privilege is that they serve fatally to bring out deficiencies as well as abilities. All writers enter that profession at their own peril. They cannot escape giving the measure of their capacity.

"You can't buy genius as an attachment to your typewriter." This is all very true, but you can plug along. And everyone is free to make himself a Person on paper as well as in living. And that is what I.M.P. is really getting at.

Readers of the Crumb may have noticed that we have hammered at this idea pretty hard. We have done it, however, with malice of forethought, because among the members of the Conference and at some of the round tables we have noticed a tendency to be more interested in sales and selling than in the practical problems of writing. And you can't sell a horse till you have one to sell.

#### Three Talks

Next week there will be three talks for the teachers of English composition, as outlined in the Conference Bulletin. These will take place in the small classroom nearest the Inn as follows: (no other lectures are scheduled at the same hours)

Monday at 11.30 A.M. Mr. Morrison.  
Tuesday at 2.30 P.M. Mr. DeVoto.  
Wednesday at 10.30 A.M. Mr. Ransom.

"They Also Serve!"

"He may be a little piper  
With a very slender reed --  
But perhaps a fainter piping  
May fill a louder need.

"There is music in the spheres above  
And by the Gods decreed --  
But we hear the humble music  
Of the cricket in the weed."

A crumb of consolation for the "also rans".  
And contributed by a Crumb subscriber.

Paradox

W.R. Burnett, who tried his hand at one odd job after another until "Little Caesar", his first novel was accepted, says: "It was published in 1927. I haven't worked since; as I do not consider writing work, but pleasure."

On the other hand he served a long apprenticeship, writing many short stories and five novels before "Little Caesar". And he adds: "Books develop slowly in my mind; I thought about "Little Caesar" for over a year before I wrote a word.

"Again, I outlined 'The Giant Swing' first in 1922. It was finally written in 1932. In the ten year period I made two attempts to write it, one over 80,000 words, both of which I scrapped."

It may be appropriate to note that George Moore once wrote: "The sight of a shelf full of my own books is a sad sight to me. I have put so much of my own life into them."

That is the price, and at the same time the privilege, of a life devoted to writing.

Another Poem

"But yesterday we wailed about the heat,  
'Lord, how the sun rays on our poor heads beat!"

"And then came rain, and all our anxious eyes  
Were scanning mountain tops and gloomy skies;  
But now about the fires in the Inn  
We huddle, shivering from toe to chin,  
And pity those poor souls whose fortitude  
Gets them in colonies they call 'The Nude.'"

Another Crumb Subscriber



## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 26, 1935.

No. 12.

#### Booktrade Lectures

We are very glad to announce a series of annual lectures on the publication and distribution of books, to be sponsored for three years --- and possibly longer, by the New York Public Library.

The first of these Bowker Lectures, named in memory of one of the trade's most sterling friends, the late R. R. Bowker, publisher and editor of the Publishers' Weekly and the Library Journal, is to be given by Mr. Frederick A. Stokes, himself now the dean of the profession, as well as a man of the highest ideals.

Therefore, those who anticipate being in or near New York City on Friday, November 15th, would do well to save the date.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Munson is speaking on "Literary Criticism".
- 9.30 A.M. "The Two Times in the Novel" is Mrs. Peterkin's provocative title.
- 10.30 A.M. Mr. DeVoto, believe it or not, is speaking on "Writing Short Stories".
- 11.30 A.M. Mr. Morrison, who is opening the special series of talks for teachers of English composition, has chosen, "What Is to Be Hoped For From the Teaching of English Composition?"

#### Round Tables

- 2.30 P.M. The round tables will meet in divided form today. At the usual times, except that Mr. Brown's drama group convenes at 2 P.M.

#### Please Note

Mr. Morrison's lecture, which is for a special group in the Conference, will meet in the small classroom nearest the Inn.

#### Evening Lecture

- 7.45 P.M. Mr. Philip Wheelwright will give a talk on the subject "On Liking T. S. Eliot and Other Prejudices."

## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 27, 1935.

No. 13.

#### That Detachment Bogie

"Many writers," says Miss Esther Forbes, novelist and former mss. reader for Houghton Mifflin Company, "must build up in some way a slight insulation between themselves and their material before their novels can gain independence."

In other words, the old theory that writers write best about familiar topics -- when they can view them from a distance.

"Too close contact," adds Miss Forbes, warps the story, making it seem unreal. To be actually 'seen', it must be pushed away from oneself."

Miss Forbes' idea regarding the workings of the sub-conscious mind is interesting. "The author must be able to see his characters, understand them and forgive them as he could not the sharers of his roof and personal problems. They must be liberated and in no way held accountable to the author's own hurt-feelings, boredom, vanity, love or jealousy.

"In this way the novel becomes an 'escape from reality', for the final reality to each person is himself. And writers must make this escape from themselves before they can gain a proper perspective."

Therein lies the art of the realistic story-teller -- to sublimate his experience material until it bears the same relation to the latter as gold to crude ore. Sam Merwin, the short story writer has an illuminating phrase about the danger of "chunks of undeveloped experience."

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. Brown's subject: "By Way of Conclusion."
- 9.30 A.M. "The Professional Novelist" is Mr. Steven's subject.
- 10.30 A.M. Mr. Ransom is speaking on "Wilful Obscurity in Poetry."
- 11.30 A.M. Mr. DeVeto will speak to English Composition Teachers' group on "The Advanced Course in Composition."

#### Evening Recital

- 7.45 P.M. There will be a musical recital with further details awaiting you, when you gather.



There are a few German books left, which will be exhibited for sale by Mr. Parker in the West Parlor after luncheon today.

Conference Geography

A very hasty check discloses the following geographical distribution among the members:

Greater Boston	10	Michigan	3
New York State	7	Washington, D.C.	3
Ohio	7	Illinois	3
New England	6	New Jersey	2
Pennsylvania	6	California, Ind.	1
Massachusetts	4	Canada, Wis., Mo.	1
		N. D., Wyoming	1

At Bread Loaf

"Points of View"

So may stories vibrate in a face,  
Flame out of eyes, or flash along the halls, -  
So much of living centered in one place  
Might fire the roof or pulverize the walls.

II

So many frustrate females seeing ghosts,  
Inglorious Miltons anything but mute,  
These unlicked moon-calves blatting for the noon,  
And Mid-West Masfields pawing at the lute, -  
Loud anthropophagi no pen describes  
Make me exult in dull and speechless tribes.

III

"Isn't it perfectly wonderful and unbelievable, my dear,  
To see these real live authors in the flesh at last!"  
"Don't you think Julia Peterkin's a perfect dear?"  
She smiled at me."  
"And Gladys Carroll touched me as she passed!"  
"They say that nice Mr. Morrison has a new book of poems  
"For Life and Death" -  
"Too deep for little me to understand, I guess, but I'm  
going to ask him to autograph my copy, -  
"I don't care much for poetry, but he's just grand!"

To Mr. Ransom we are grateful for this contribution composed by one of his poetry group. Reserving editorial judgement, and confessing that in these closing days of the Conference space is "tight", we refer our readers to the Bulletin Board for the three final cantos.

## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 28, 1935.

No. 14.

#### Essential Thing

A cogent thought from Miss Gladys George, star of last winter's hit, "Personal Appearance."

"I've met actors who can give you the longest talk about a character. They've thought it all out; they feel it so deeply. But when it comes to acting they don't project anything at all. Projection is what counts; it's something that reaches out to other people. Perhaps it is vitality; I don't know. But it's the thing you must give to a performance (or to a piece of writing).

"Carole Arden is what I call a hazardous part. It's got to maintain a neat balance. You must get angry, but not too angry; there must always be the comedy thrust underneath. If you slip over the edge and let Carole's temper go too far, you lose. I know because I played the first act that way once or twice. I often think of something my father told me once. He was a good actor, and he warned me never to scowl when I had a mean line to say. He said a hint was all the audience needed."

There is much good meat in this idea of what constitutes the fool for comic effect -- meat that every serious writer should study and inwardly digest.

#### Today's Lectures

- 8.30 A.M. Mr. DeVoto's subject: "Conclusions".
- 9.30 A.M. Mr. Munson will discuss "Literary Critics."
- 10.30 A.M. Mr. Ransom, speaking before the English Composition Group, will talk on "Expository vs. Creative Writing."
- 11.30 A.M. And Mrs. Peterkin, closing our formal lecture schedule, will outline some of the "Rewards and Penalties of Being a Novelist."

#### General Round Table

- 2.30 P.M. Mr. Morrison will undertake to summarize our two weeks here at Bread Loaf, then throw the meeting open for discussion.

#### Hail and Farewell

The Inn will serve coffee in the West Parlor after dinner tonight. This will be the final gathering of the Conference, with no set program planned to follow it.

Mr. Morrison will be in his office from 5 to 6 P.M.



Announcements

Mr. Parker says: "All books borrowed from the Library MUST be in his hands this afternoon." It is unnecessary to add that the hours are 3 to 6 P.M.

Gratuities. Following the customary procedure of past years, all tips for waiters and waitresses will be pooled and then divided equally. Envelopes in which to enclose these gratuities will be left at each place at luncheon today. When filled these should be handed in to person in charge of the Inn office.

Please help the Inn clerical force to help you by living up to the terms of the departure blank, which was given you on Monday. If everyone cooperates, things will move speedily.

Self-Estimate

Shortly before his death Colonel Lawrence of Arabia drew this estimate of himself as an author. "I know I can write a good sentence; I think I can write a good paragraph; I believe I can write a good chapter, but I have tried my best and failed to write what I consider a good book."

How far along this road can we at Bread Loaf go?

Hoc Delenda Est

The busiest writers, like most high powered business executives, keep their working desks reasonably clear. You notice we said "reasonably".

Be chary, however, of destroying abandoned notes -- lest they rise up one day to haunt you.

Many writers when they get stuck in the first stages of blocking out a novel, throw away potentially valuable notes. Later, comes the inspiration of a fresh point of view. But the notes that have suddenly become useful again, being now only a vague, beclouded memory, prove a psychic obstacle to creative portion of the mind. Again and again the novelist will find himself coming back to the thought: "Now how did I have that idea developed in my first draft?"

"The Human Touch"

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,  
The touch of your hand and mine,  
Which means far more to the fainting heart  
Than shelter and bread and wine.  
For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,  
And bread lasts only a day,  
But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice  
Sing on in the soul away.

Spencer Michael Free.

## THE CRUMB

### Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

Vol. 10.

August 29, 1935.

No. 15.

#### Valedictory

Today, the editor of the Crumb regretfully takes leave of all his friends -- the members of the Conference and the guests of the Inn. Inevitably for some of us this tenth annual meeting will leave a jumble of confused impressions, the pattern of which time alone will untangle. But no one, I feel sure, will be able to resist the one self-evident appeal of Bread Loaf -- namely, that we try each day to put our best foot forward and meet the challenge of life a trifle more gallantly.

If we follow the advice of our Staff regarding integrity in writing and keeping our goals higher than the models we hope to achieve, it will not greatly matter what acceptances we eventually achieve. For whether we see all our stories in print or not, we shall at least have bettered our technique of living.

#### Announcements

Luncheon will be served at 11.45 A.M. for those persons leaving at 12.30 A.M. by taxi, if they will register at the Inn desk.

##### Departures:

<u>10. A.M.</u>	<u>11. A.M.</u>	<u>12.30 P.M.</u>	<u>2.40 P.M.</u>
Corbett	Terry; May	Clancy; Jewell	Werry
Marsh	McIntyre	McCoy; Miner	
Grilley	Wheelwright	Morsell; Perin	
Longley	Downs; Jeffers	Sackett; E. Hamilton	
	Little	M. Hamilton	

Photographs will be awaiting those who ordered them in the Exchange at the Inn desk. Please call for them as early as possible.

There are several letters held on the Inn bulletin board for insufficient postage.

#### "Old Friendship"

Beautiful and rich is an old friendship,  
Grateful to the touch as ancient ivory,  
Smooth as aged wine or sheen of tapestry  
Where light has lingered, intimate and long.  
Full of tears and warmth is an old friendship  
That asks no longer deeds of gallantry,  
Or any deeds at all -- save that the friend shall be  
Alive and breathing somewhere, like a song.

Eunice Tietjens.

And so finis...till 1936!





1935



